

2013

Child Safety Data Packet

Data Guide



Office of Children
and Family Services

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Child Safety Data Overview:

The child safety data originates in the CONNECTIONS system. CONNECTIONS is the system of record for child protective, preventive, adoption and foster care case initiation. Detailed data descriptions are found throughout the Safety Data Guide.

The safety data guide provides charts and tables for users to compare county performance over time as well as to other counties.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Safety Data:

Q: Does Family Assessment Response (FAR) impact this data?

A: FAR is an alternative process for addressing certain allegations of child maltreatment. In selected CPS maltreatment reports, FAR is a non-adversarial approach to the traditional investigative response and has resulted in improved outcomes in other states. (For more information related to FAR, refer to the OCFS Informational Letter: 08-OCFS-INF-13).

By design, the CPS intake process at the SCR and the transmission of reports to a LDSS, is not impacted by FAR. Therefore, those measures in this data packet that relate to a SCR report (prior to an assignment to FAR or the traditional Investigative Track), have not changed.

Because a FAR case does not result in a determination of the allegations, data users should be aware of resulting implications that FAR has on data that uses “determined” or “indicated” reports. The “Rate of Recurrence of Maltreatment”, for example, is impacted by FAR because the Recurrence Rate measures “...all of the children who were involved in an *indicated* report, percent who were involved in another *indicated* report within six months”. If a district assigns cases to FAR, those reports are not indicated. Therefore, the universe of children that are included in the Recurrence Rate measure does not include any child involved in reports assigned to the FAR track.

For clarity, charts that are labeled “investigative track” include only reports assigned to the traditional investigative track (FAR cases are not excluded).

Q: The county comparison charts provide data for “ROS LDSS” and “Statewide LDSS”, why separate them?

A: Throughout this packet, ROS means every District outside of NYC. However, in reference to reports of abuse/maltreatment in residential care, reports may be assigned to the Justice Center, and therefore are not within the scope of LDSS Child Protective Services.

Because the “other agencies”:

- serve different populations and
- Often adhere to different regulations, the data from “other agencies” potentially skew the LDSS safety data.

Therefore when “ROS-LDSS” or “Statewide LDSS” is referenced, the data reflects aggregate counts of only investigations or assessments by LDSS.

Q: We're a small county, and some of our data, has changed dramatically from one reporting period/year to the next, why?

A: Sharp changes in performance should be treated with caution. A small base population or small child count in a particular measure may significantly change the rate or percentage from year to year.

Q: Our county's estimate of the number of children residing in our county differs from the estimate contained in the data packet.

A: Age, race and ethnicity population estimates were obtained from Woods and Poole Economics Inc. The safety and permanency charts base the youth population count on the Woods and Poole population estimates that were calculated in 2012 and the 2010 actual census data.

According to the Woods and Poole population estimates calculated in 2012 and the US 2010 Census, NYS' 2010 youth population is 4,328,403. This represents a decrease of approximately 6.7 percent between 2004 (estimate) and 2010. The counties outside of NYC (Rest of State – ROS) have an estimated 5.4 percent fewer children in 2010 than in 2004.

Q: Our County's record of the number of SCR reports differs from the OCFS number of SCR reports. Why?

A: The "Total Reports of Abuse/Maltreatment" registered to a LDSS count is generated from a Data Warehouse Report. This Data Warehouse report counts the number of CPS reports assigned to the LDSS *with primary investigative responsibility* that become an investigation or assessment.

Counts exclude those SCR reports which were:

- Assigned to the LDSS with a secondary investigative role. A Data Warehouse report titled, Secondary Assignments Received will provide a report of all secondary assignments.
- Consolidated into another on-going investigation. The Data Warehouse report titled, Consolidated Investigations Summary Report will provide a count of consolidated reports.
- Transferred by the LDSS before investigation conclusion.
- Duplicates intakes. The number of duplicate intakes is captured in the CONNECTIONS Call Log Report.
- Additional Information: The number of "add infos" is captured in the CONNECTIONS "Call Log Report."

Questions regarding the content of this data overview guide may be directed to:

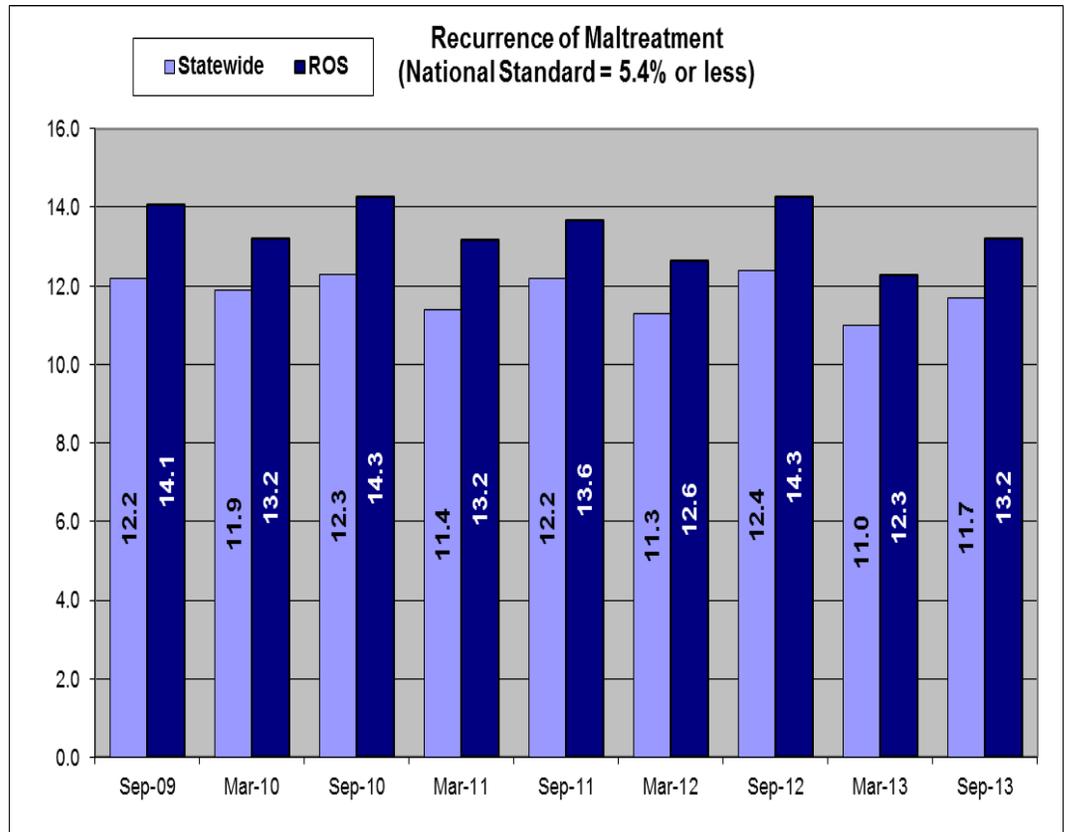
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Recurrence of Abuse/Maltreatment (Key Outcome Measure)

Definition: Of the children that were victims of a substantiated allegation in an indicated report of child abuse or neglect during a six month period, the percent that had another substantiated allegation in an indicated report within 6 months of the date of the first indicated oral report.

In ROS, 13.2 percent of the children who were victims of a substantiated abuse/maltreatment report registered between 10/1/12-3/31/13 were re-victimimized in the six months following that report (by September, 2013).

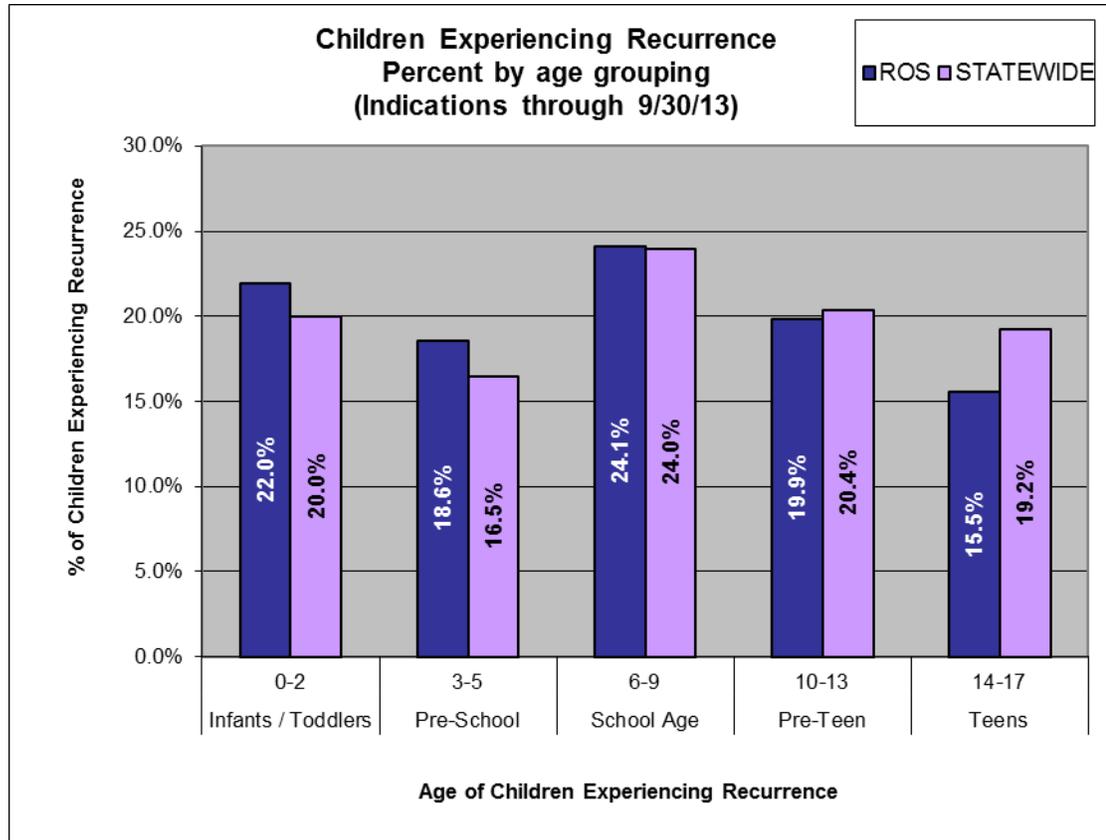
The Statewide recurrence rate is lower than ROS (11.7 percent). Note that all of the counties in the “large” grouping perform better than the statewide median.



Note: A pre-defined report, “Recurrence by District Report” is available in Data Warehouse. This report lists identifying information for all children included in this recurrence measure. To access this pre-defined report, follow this path through Data Warehouse: CFSR Program Improvement Plan > Recurrence by District > Select End Date > Select District > List of Children with Child PID > Child Specific Report.

Recurrence by Age

Definition: Of the children who were victims of a substantiated allegation in an indicated report of child abuse or neglect during a six month period, the percent that had another substantiated allegation in an indicated report within six (6) months of the date of the first indicated oral report.



Statewide, more than one third of the children experiencing recurrence are younger than school age (age 5 and younger).

Note that this is not a rate per 1,000 in the population. It is the percent of all children who experienced recurrence.

Note: Child identifier information is available upon request or through a pre-defined report. To access the child specific recurrence report, follow this path through Data Warehouse: CFSR Program Improvement Plan > Recurrence by District > Select End Date > Select District > List of Children with Child PID > Child Specific Report.

In analyzing this demographic indicator, the LDSS might consider the following:

- Are adequate, developmentally appropriate services available and provided to families with an indicated report?
- How do those services (or lack of) impact recurrence for a particular age group of children?
- The dip in recurrence among the pre-school population does not necessarily mean fewer children are experiencing recurrence of abuse/maltreatment. It may mean that there is less “surveillance” for that particular age group.
- Are extended family members engaged in providing support to the family?

Family Re-Reporting – Frequently Asked Questions

The Family Re-Reporting Rate was developed by OCFS to identify the re-reporting frequency of the family unit to the SCR. The traditional Recurrence Rate (previous page) measures re-substantiation of an allegation of abuse/neglect only for the children named in indicated reports, not other family members.

Q: Do the family-focused measures have a national standard?

A: The Family Re-Reporting Rate is generated by NYS OCFS and, therefore, is not a federal data measure. There is no national performance standard. One reason the federal government is limited to using the child specific measure because of disparate state data systems.

Q: How is the Family Re-Reporting measure different than the federal child recurrence measure?

A: The Family Re-Reporting measure is different in several ways:

- Family Re-Reporting tracks all families that have been involved in a CPS Report, regardless of the determination (families with an indicated, unfounded or FAR report); the federal Recurrence measure only tracks children who are substantiated as victims of abuse or neglect followed by another substantiation.
- Family Re-Reporting tracks all family members (including siblings). The federal measure only tracks the child who was a victim of maltreatment or recurrence of maltreatment.
- After enough time has elapsed, the Family Re-Reporting Rate will track a family for a full 24 months

Q: How is “family” defined?

A: For the purpose of these measures, “family” includes anyone that is listed in the case composition for the focal investigation as a “Principal”. If the caseworker included a paramour, then he/she is part of the family. If the paramour is not listed, then he/she is not part of the family, regardless of whether the paramour lives in the home or not. Essentially, the decision related to family membership is a result of the caseworker’s record of who comprises the family unit and is not based on who lives together (i.e.: parents who live separately should be listed). OCFS’ Strategic Planning and Policy Development Office has taken steps to make sure that the same family is not counted twice as part of the focal cohort, (i.e.; if a family had two investigations under two different case numbers during the six month focal period, this family is included only one time in the focal cohort.)

Q: Can OCFS provide case and/or child identifier information to allow for a case review of the families?

A: Upon a LDSS request, OCFS will provide case identifier information (for all or a sampling of cases) that will allow for a local case review. Case identifier information may include the focal case and report id numbers, and the case name associated to the focal report. A case review could provide additional insight into understanding why family re-reporting occurred, by asking such questions as:

- Did the family receive needed services?
- Were the Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment Profiles comprehensive?
- What was the level of family engagement during the investigation/FAR?

Q: Can you provide an example?

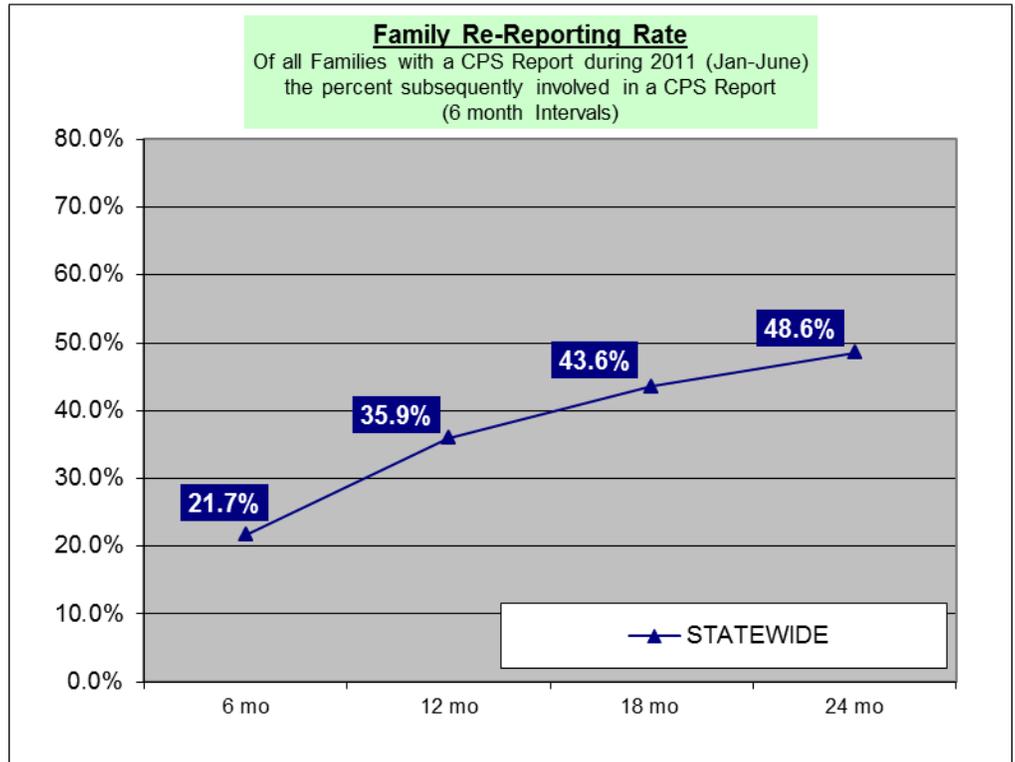
A: Example: If child A is reported to the SCR for physical abuse in January 2009, and child B, a sibling in the same family is reported for educational neglect in August 2009, this is considered a Family Re-Reporting situation according to the OCFS family-focused recurrence measure.

Family Re-Reporting Rate

If a child within a family is involved in a report (regardless of determination), what percent of them (or another child within the same family) will be involved in another report within 6 months?

Definition: Of families with a CPS report between January 1 and June 30, 2011, percent that had another CPS report within two (2) years of the intake date of the focal report.

Statewide, 48.6 percent of all families reported to the SCR between January - June 2011 were involved in another SCR report within two years of the original report.



Note: Although re-reporting rates are outside the direct control of the local district, re-reporting rates can be seen as an indicator that community members are concerned enough about the welfare of those children to make a report, even if the incident doesn't meet the standards required for report substantiation.

It is important to analyze re-reporting rates, because indication rates vary across counties, from worker to worker, and over time. County-specific indication rates are available later in this Data Guide.



To understand the factors that contribute to performance, and assist with the local self-assessment, a county might ask questions such as, "What could or should we have done differently to prevent the resulting indicated report?" Additional questions might include:

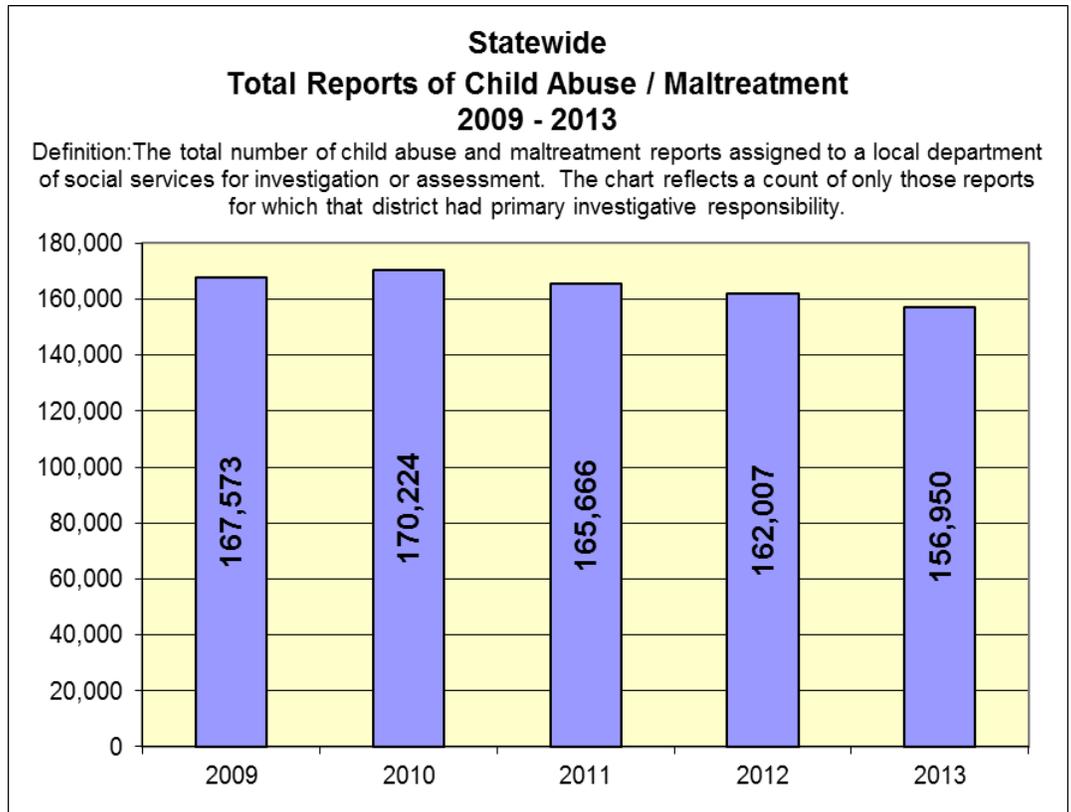
- What proportion of all reports were unfounded? On average, NYS indicates about one-third of all registered reports (to see the LDSS indication rate, see the Indication Rate chart later in this data guide).
- What types of issues or allegations are noted, and what can we do to help families overcome them.
- Are Risk Assessment Profiles being completed accurately?
- Are high risk families being offered risk reduction services regardless of the determination of the report?
- Are families engaged in identifying strengths and resources to keep their children safe?

Total Reports of Child Abuse / Maltreatment

Definition: The total number of child abuse and maltreatment reports assigned to a LDSS for investigation. The chart reflects a count of only those reports for which that district had primary investigative responsibility. This count does not include institutional abuse (IAB) reports.

Statewide the number of SCR reports assigned to local districts has decreased slightly since 2010. However, when this is disaggregated by district, there are some that have experienced large swings in the number of reports.

This data includes **ONLY** reports assigned to a LDSS. Reports assigned to other agencies are excluded from this count.



Note: This count can also be found in Data Warehouse Cubes Report titled, CPS Reports Processed During the Period; specifically, the column, “Total New CPS Reports Assigned”.

This Data Warehouse report counts the number of CPS reports assigned to the LDSS *with primary investigative responsibility* that become an investigation or assessment. Counts exclude those SCR reports which were:

- Assigned to the LDSS with a secondary investigative role. (Although a separate Data Warehouse report titled, Secondary Assignments Received provides a report of all secondary assignments.)
- Consolidated into another on-going investigation. (A Data Warehouse report titled, Consolidated Investigations Summary Report provides a count of consolidated reports.)
- Transferred by the LDSS before investigation conclusion.
- Duplicates intakes. The number of duplicate intakes is captured in the CONNECTIONS Call Log Report.
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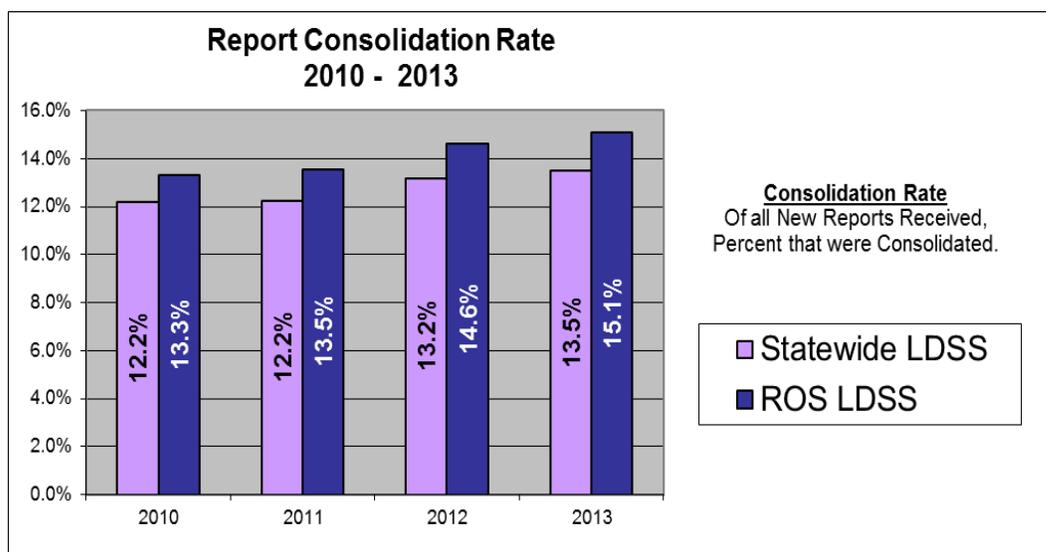
If a district is interested in a count that *includes* all of the above, the CONNECTIONS Call Log Report provides a count of the primary and secondary assignments, duplicates, “add infos,” cases that have been transferred prior to the investigation conclusion and reports that have been consolidated are counted as separate reports. This would serve as a “workload” count.

Report Consolidation Rate

Definition: Of all new reports that were received, percent of those that were merged into an existing investigation.

The number of reports Statewide that are consolidated continues to increase.

The table below shows that reports continue to be consolidated early in the investigation stage.



		Total Consolidated Reports	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7 and Up	REPORTS REC'D	Consolidated %
2010	Statewide LDSS	20,445	6,954	3,685	3,252	2,605	1,976	1,370	603	167,983	12.2%
2011	Statewide LDSS	20,028	6,873	3,557	3,168	2,487	1,899	1,342	712	163,692	12.2%
2012	Statewide LDSS	21,084	7,115	3,850	3,330	2,735	1,978	1,396	680	160,077	13.2%
2013	Statewide LDSS	21,047	7,122	3,734	3,300	2,774	2,066	1,410	641	156,007	13.5%
		Total Consolidated Reports	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7 and Up	REPORTS REC'D	Consolidated %
2010	ROS LDSS	14,591	5,560	2,586	2,281	1,656	1,207	769	532	109,747	13.3%
2011	ROS LDSS	14,436	5,625	2,572	2,203	1,594	1,127	732	593	106,749	13.5%
2012	ROS LDSS	15,495	5,956	2,844	2,390	1,840	1,162	768	535	106,022	14.6%
2013	ROS LDSS	15,504	6,248	2,854	2,335	1,806	1,137	648	476	102,652	15.1%

Note: “Through the consolidation of report investigations, CPS investigators are able to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort while still maintaining the integrity of the investigation process for each report. Consolidating investigations may enhance family engagement by fostering a more strength based and minimally intrusive approach to child protective investigations.”¹ If consolidation is used when appropriate, the intent is to promote family engagement and to reduce the amount of time a caseworker spends on report documentation.

This report is also available through the Data Warehouse “Consolidated Investigations” report which is updated weekly.

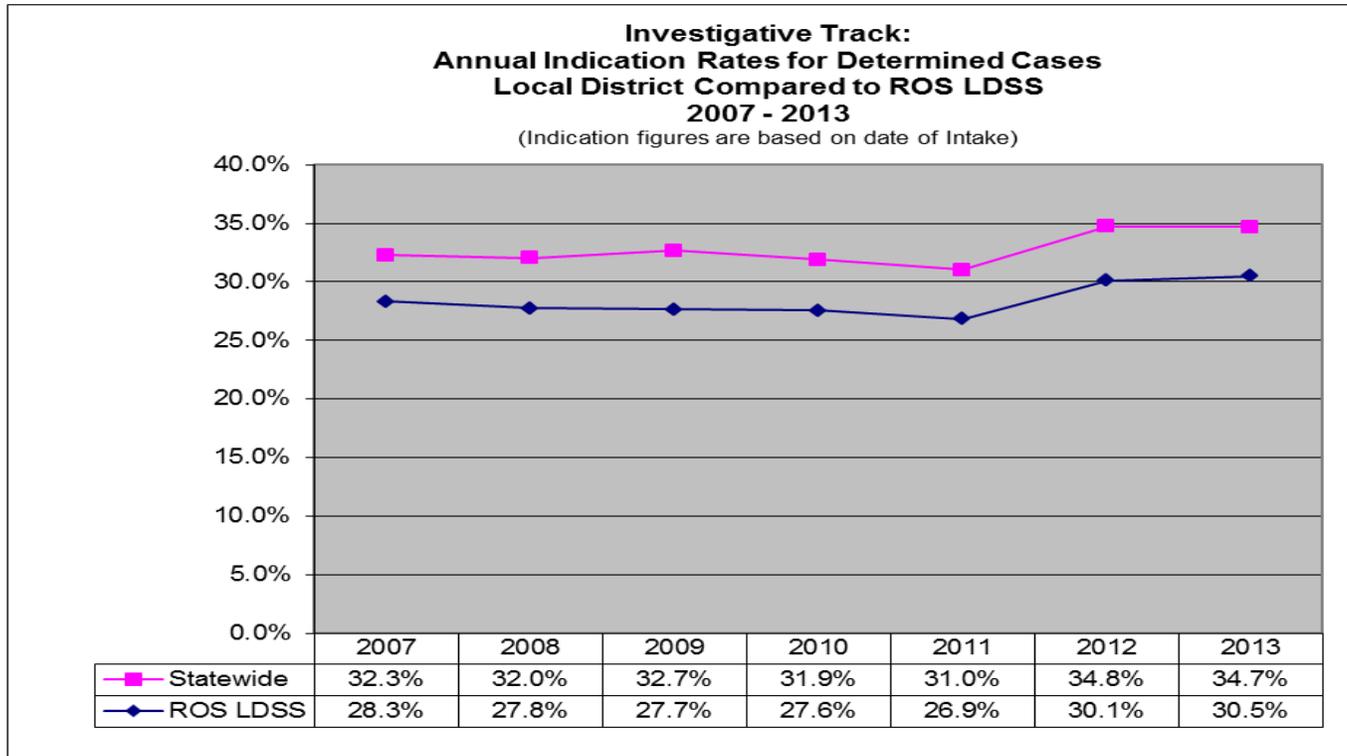
Cautionary Note: The number of cases technically eligible for consolidation cannot be effectively determined. Each LDSS, based on specific State guidance, determines which reports are eligible for consolidation

¹ CPS Program Manual, Section VIII. Special Circumstances in Report Processing. The CPS Program Manual is available at: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/cps/manual/default.asp>

Indication Rate for Investigative Track: Total Number of Reports Determined/Number of Reports Indicated

Definition: Of all of the SCR reports assigned to an investigative track during a calendar year and determined as of 5/8/2014, the percent that resulted in a determination of "Indicated."

FAR cases are excluded from this Rate.



Determined Reports	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Statewide	154,654	162,771	161,776	162,073	156,258	134,279	128,959
ROS LDSS	95,600	101,852	101,382	101,637	97,135	83,559	79,522

Indicated Reports	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Statewide	49,928	52,142	52,835	51,684	48,493	46,673	44,755
ROS LDSS	27,078	28,276	28,063	28,014	26,092	25,186	24,253

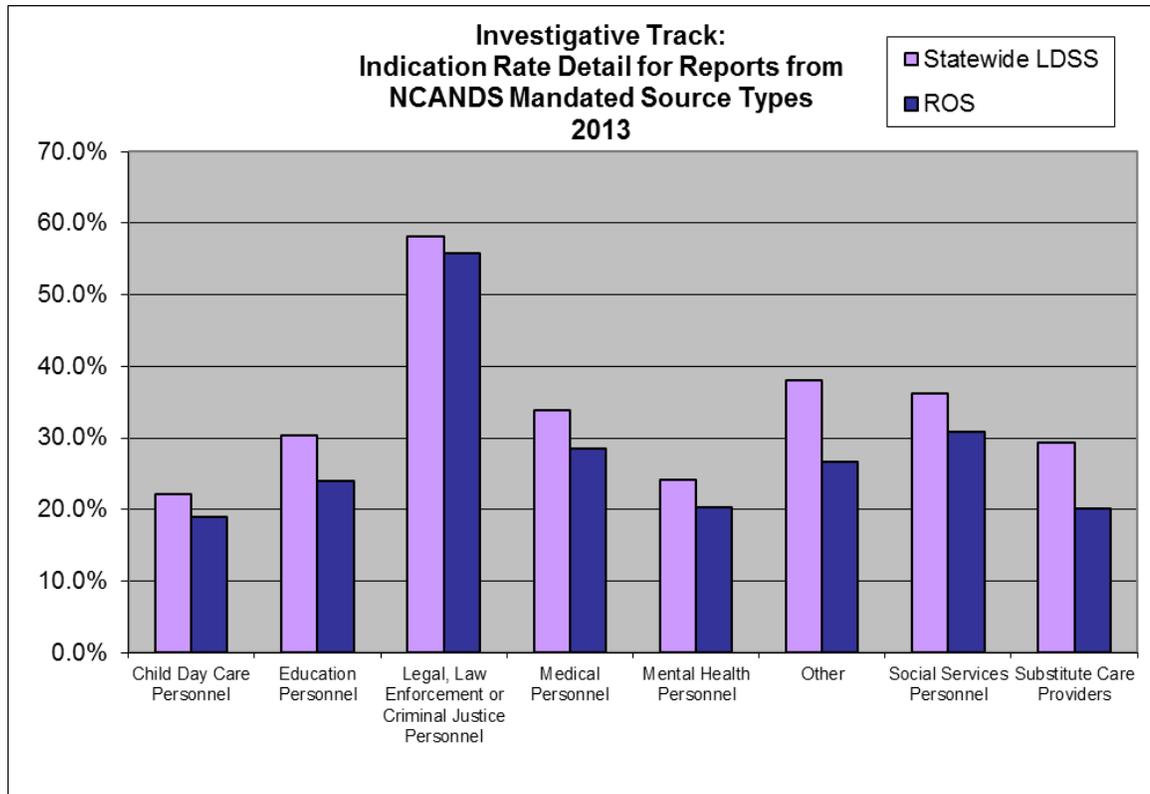
Note: The number of Determined Reports is a subset of the "total reports" count in a previous page; un-determined reports and reports that were assigned to the FAR track are removed. The count of undetermined reports as of 5/8/2014, can be found on the Safety Executive Summary chart.

In analyzing this demographic indicator, the LDSS might consider the following:

- Are there significant fluctuations, in my jurisdiction over time? If so, why?
- A LDSS might drill down to the caseworker and supervisor level to gain insight into contributing factors (e.g.: do some caseworkers/units indicate cases at a higher rate? What implications does this have for local caseworker/supervisor training?)
- As the number of reports increase, does that impact workload, the quality of the investigations?

Indicated Reports from Mandated Sources

Definition: Of the total number of CPS reports received from mandated reporters, the percent that resulted in a determination of indicated, grouped by the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) mandated source types.



Statewide, reports from legal/law enforcement are indicated more frequently than reports from other mandated sources.

58.1 percent of the Legal, Law Enforcement reports were indicated. (See table, below)

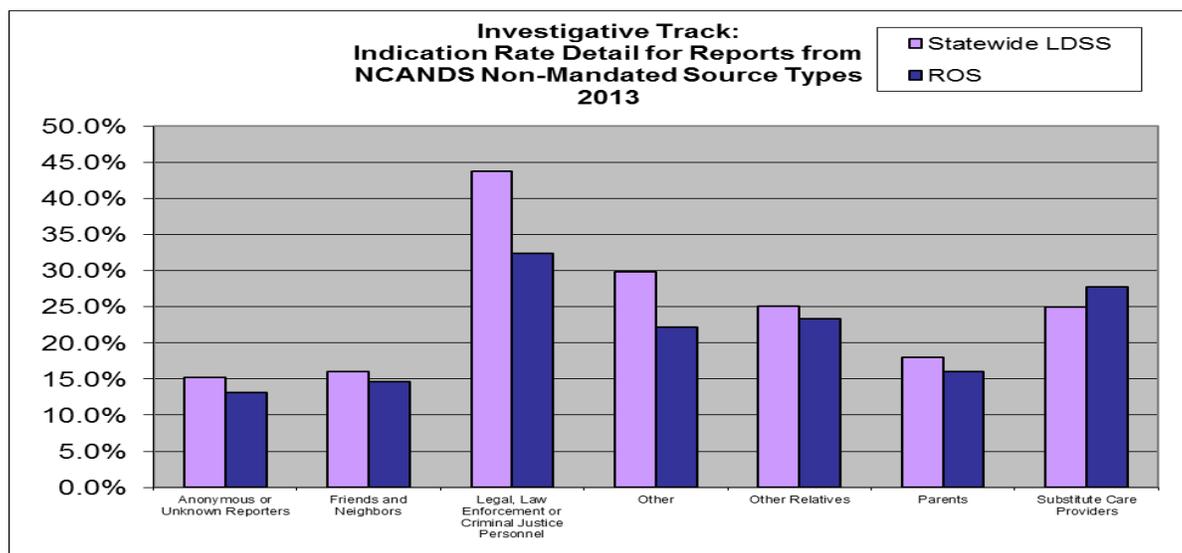
TOTAL Determined Reports	Child Day Care Personnel	Education Personnel	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel	Medical Personnel	Mental Health Personnel	Other	Social Services Personnel	Substitute Care Providers
Statewide LDSS	401	26,533	16,536	8,842	6,477	851	29,145	1,170
ROS	305	12,267	11,534	6,129	4,351	505	18,946	1,019
INDICATED Reports	Child Day Care Personnel	Education Personnel	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel	Medical Personnel	Mental Health Personnel	Other	Social Services Personnel	Substitute Care Providers
Statewide LDSS	89	8,071	9,603	2,990	1,560	323	10,529	343
ROS	58	2,941	6,435	1,745	883	135	5,843	205
Percent of Indicated Reports by Source Type	Child Day Care Personnel	Education Personnel	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel	Medical Personnel	Mental Health Personnel	Other	Social Services Personnel	Substitute Care Providers
Statewide LDSS	22.2%	30.4%	58.1%	33.8%	24.1%	38.0%	36.1%	29.3%
ROS	19.0%	24.0%	55.8%	28.5%	20.3%	26.7%	30.8%	20.1%

Note: The table above provides information related to the number of determined reports and indicated reports. Take note that the “other” category has a higher indication rate than some other reporter types. However, the number of determined reports statewide in that category is only 851 reports. Of those 851 reports, 323 were indicated, resulting in an indication rate for the “other” category of 38 percent.

In the table above, the highest number of determined reports Statewide are from Social Services Personnel (29,145 reports), Educational Personnel (26,533 reports) followed by Legal, Law Enforcement (16,536 reports).

Indicated Reports from Non-Mandated Sources

Definition: Of the total number of CPS reports received from non-mandated reporters, the percent that resulted in a determination of indicated, grouped by NCANDS non-mandated source types.



TOTAL Determined Reports	Anonymous or Unknown Reporters	Friends and Neighbors	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel	Other	Other Relatives	Parents	Substitute Care Providers
Statewide LDSS	13,516	6,012	270	14,934	7,030	9,768	64
ROS	8,694	3,723	179	8,886	5,219	7,331	54
INDICATED Reports	Anonymous or Unknown Reporters	Friends and Neighbors	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel	Other	Other Relatives	Parents	Substitute Care Providers
Statewide LDSS	2,060	965	118	4,460	1,763	1,758	16
ROS	1,141	545	58	1,967	1,215	1,174	15
Percent of Indicated Reports by Source Type	Anonymous or Unknown Reporters	Friends and Neighbors	Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel	Other	Other Relatives	Parents	Substitute Care Providers
Statewide LDSS	15.2%	16.1%	43.7%	29.9%	25.1%	18.0%	25.0%
ROS	13.1%	14.6%	32.4%	22.1%	23.3%	16.0%	27.8%

Note: The table above provides detail information for determined reports and indicated reports received from non-mandated sources. Note that Statewide, the highest number of determined reports are from “other” reporters (14,934 reports), followed by anonymous non-mandated reporters (13,516 reports), parents (9,768 reports), other relatives (7,030 reports).

It is important to recognize that although the indication rate is high for certain types of non-mandated reporters they may represent a very low reporting volume. For example, legal/law enforcement* reports total only 270 reports Statewide, and 43.7% of them are indicated.

* NCANDS Non-Mandated Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Personnel refers to those working in the Legal, Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice professions not specifically required to report suspected child abuse/neglect under Title 6 Section 413 of NYS Social Services Law. Examples include, attorneys not employed in the District Attorney’s office and Lawyers for Children.

In analyzing this demographic indicator, the LDSS might consider the following:

- Does the source of the report affect the likelihood of a report being indicated?
- What practice or training implications may this present?
- Do any biases exist related to reports that originate from non-mandated reporters?

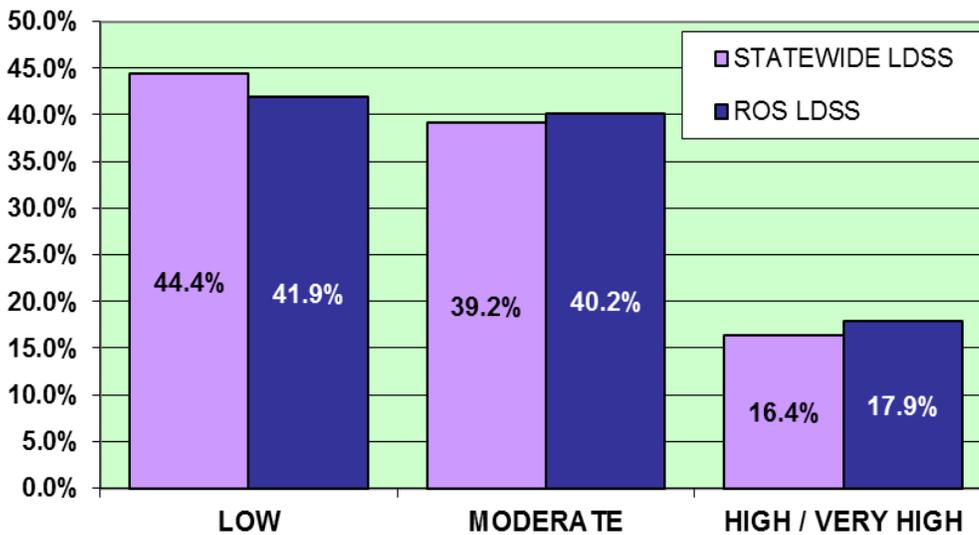
Risk Assessment Profile (RAP) How does the preliminary risk assessment impact re-reporting and re-indication rates?

In analyzing the following RAP-related charts, the County might ask:

- Are the risk ratings (e.g.: Low, Moderate, High, Very High Risk) in line with expectations, based on the RAP Development Study? (It is expected that approximately 1/3 of the completed RAPs would rate as Low Risk; 1/3 as Moderate Risk, and 1/3 as High/Very High Risk per the 2002 RAP Development Study.)

Risk Rating Distribution - Families with an Indicated CPS Report

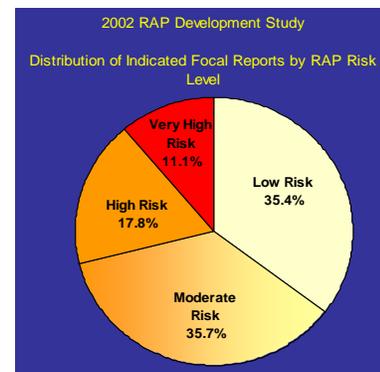
**Distribution of Preliminary Risk Ratings for:
Families with Indicated CPS Reports
(Jan 2011- June 2011)**



Definition: Of all families with an Indicated Report, percent that had a preliminary Risk Assessment Profile Rating of “Low”, “Moderate”, “High or Very High.”

Statewide LDSS and ROS LDSS both shown a significantly higher number of low high risk ratings and fewer high/very high risk ratings than are expected, based on the 2002 RAP Development Study.

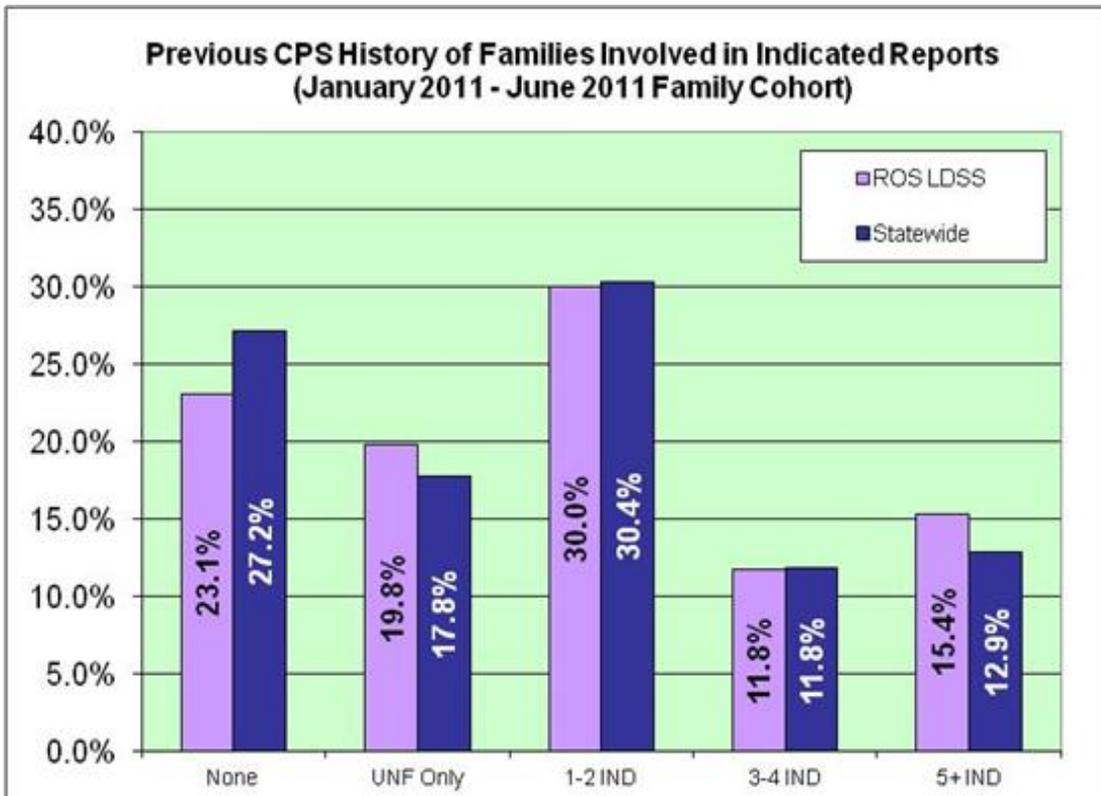
- Do caseworkers and supervisors understand the purpose of the RAP is to calculate the probability of future abuse and maltreatment so that services can be directed at families at higher risk?
- What percentage of families with moderate and high risk are referred to community services or a preventive service case opened?
- Do supervisors review the RAP and services decision with workers?
- What training or support might be helpful to increase the use of and review of the RAP during case staffing/ supervising?



CPS History of Families Involved in Indicated Reports

Definition: CPS history of the families involved in an Indicated CPS report between January-June 2011.

Note: The most current, available cohort for this data is families with an indicated CPS report between January and June 2011.



Statewide, nearly 73percent of the families involved in a CPS investigation during January-June 2011, had been previously involved in a CPS investigation.

This represents an increase from the 2009 cohort, where 71percent of families had previously been involved in a CPS investigation.

To understand factors that impact the number of families repeatedly involved in CPS, a county may ask:

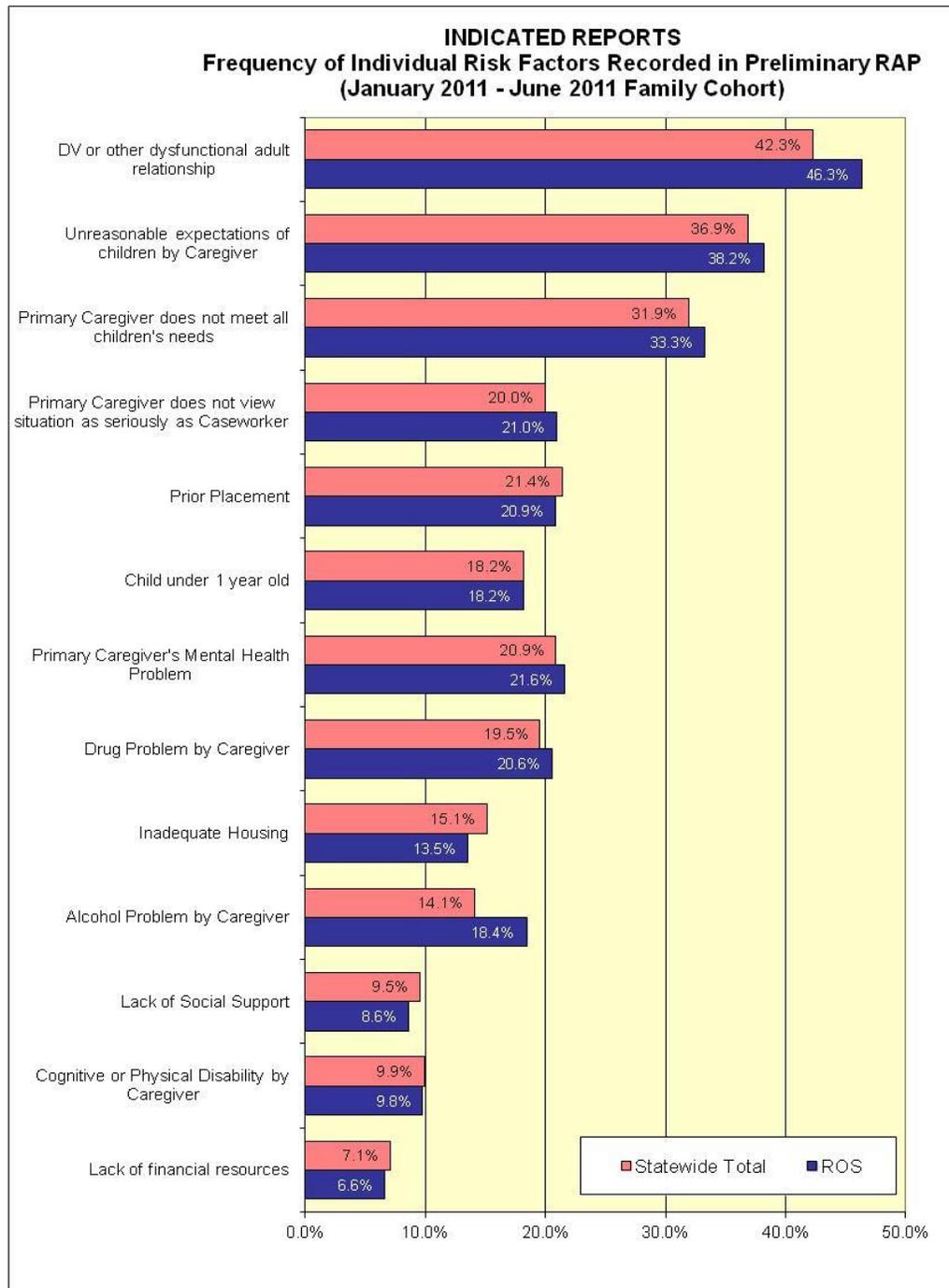
- How extensive are caseworkers' reviews of prior reports? Are workers encouraged to read families' prior case records for clues or evidence of risk factors in the past (not just review prior RAPs which may be inaccurate)
- Are the individual risk elements answered correctly?
- What Risk Factors are identified most frequently?
- Are workers aware of organization and services in the community that can help families reduce specific risk factors?
- Are families provided with information about community service providers can help them reduce risk (i.e., DV providers, HFNY, substance abuse, family resource centers, child care providers and subsidy)?
- Does work need to be done in the community to provide or increase specific services based on a high frequency of specific risk in this community?

The chart under the "Service Availability/Accessibility:" heading provides information to assist a county in answering some of the questions above.

Frequency of Individual Risk Factors for Families Involved in Indicated Reports

Definition: Of all the Indicated CPS reports, the frequency of individual risk factors.

Note: The most current, available cohort for this data is families with an indicated CPS report between January and June 2011.



Statewide, “Domestic Violence or other dysfunctional adult relationship” was the most frequently identified risk factor in families with an indicated report.

Note: The chart above is an indicator of risk; not an indicator of service need. For example: A family member with an active alcohol issue should be documented as a “risk.” However, if that family member is actively involved in alcohol services, further services may not be necessary.

Children in Direct LDSS Care who are Involved in a CPS Report and an Indicated CPS Report

This data represents CPS reports that involve children who are placed in foster boarding homes* that are under the direct supervision of the LDSS (not under the supervision of a voluntary agency).

*Foster/Adoptive, Certified Foster Home, Approved Relative Foster Home, Adoptive Home, Other

2013 OCFS Out of Home CPS Investigations

ALL Out Of Home Settings Reports (CPI, CPD)
Facility Type = Foster/Adoptive, Certified Foster Home, Approved Relative Foster Home, Adoptive Home, Other.
Agency Type = (D) Direct

Agency Type	Agency Name	Facility Type	IND	UNF	TOTAL	IND RATE
D	Statewide	*Direct Foster	69	443	512	13.5%
D	ROS	*Direct Foster	57	349	406	14.0%

Statewide, 512 CPS reports were investigated that included children placed in direct care with the district. Of the 512 investigated reports, 69 resulted in an indication and 443 resulted in an unfounded determination.

*All data is based on determined reports.

Note that the indication rate for this group of reports is about 14 percent, while the statewide indication rate for all LDSS investigated CPS reports is about 33 percent.

To understand factors that impact the number of children abused or maltreated in foster care, a county may ask:

- Was the child appropriately matched with this foster family?
- Were appropriate services provided to the foster family to care for this child?
- Was there regular communication and home visits made to this foster home, and was the child interviewed separately from the foster parents?